ABSTRACT

A system and method for quantitatively assessing the vulnerability of a computer network, comprised of elementary network elements each having at least one host, to external attack. The method produces a quantitative assessment that is repeatable and can be compared to a quantitative assessment of a separate network to determine the relative vulnerability of the network. The quantitative assessment is a function of the quantitative assessment of each elementary network unit, which is derived by classifying each port on each host and subsequently determining a quantitative vulnerability rating for the elementary network unit in accordance with the classification of each port on each host.